

## Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01     PORT L 00822 171446Z

53

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 /050 W

----- 047282

R 171135Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY PORT LOUIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6147

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE PORT LOUIS 0822

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT MP

SUBJECT: PRESS CENSORSHIP LIFTED; PARTIES TO HAVE ACCESS TO  
GOVERNMENT MEDIA PRIOR TO ELECTIONS

1. THE PRESS HAS REPORTED THE ABOLITION OF CENSORSHIP EFFECTIVE  
SEPTEMBER 16. PRE-CENSORSHIP WAS IMPOSED NEARLY FIVE YEARS  
AGO, ON OCTOBER 22, 1971, FOLLOWING IMPOSITION OF THE STATE  
OF EMERGENCY. PRIOR TO STARTING THEIR PRESS RUN EACH PAPER  
HAD TO SUBMIT TWO PAGE PROOFS TO THE POLICE. CENSORSHIP  
HAS BEEN ENFORCED RATHER MILDLY, BUT THE FACT OF ITS  
EXISTENCE NATURALLY HELD THE PAPERS UNDER RESTRAINT.  
LIFTING OF CENSORSHIP WOULD APPEAR TO HAVE BEEN DECIDED  
UPON IN ANTICIPATION OF FORTHCOMING PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS.

2. ON SUBJECT OF ELECTIONS, UDM OPPOSITION PARTY SPOKESMAN  
MAURICE LESAGE QUERIED PRIME MINISTER RAMGOOLAM AT LEGISLATIVE  
ASSEMBLY SESSION SEPTEMBER 14 AS TO WHETHER GOVERNMENT WOULD  
GIVE ALL PARTIES ACCESS TO STATE RADIO AND TELEVISION FOR THE  
ELECTORAL CAMPAIGN. RAM REPLIED AFFIRMATIVELY AND ADDED  
THAT ALL PARTIES WOULD BE ABLE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETINGS IN  
GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS (IN MANY RURAL AREAS THE ONLY LARGE  
MEETING HALLS ARE IN GOVERNMENT BUILDINGS). RAM NOTED  
THAT THESE TWO MEASURES WOULD BE IMPLEMENTED ONLY AFTER  
PUBLICATION OF THE ELECTION WRIT, AND HE REMINDED THE  
ASSEMBLY THAT ONLY THE PRIME MINISTER HAS THE PRIVILEGE OF SETTING  
THE ELECTION DATE. HIS LABOR PARTY SUPPORTERS GREETED THIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02     PORT L 00822 171446Z

STATEMENT WITH GLEEFUL LAUGHTER, TO WHICH LESAGE RESPONDED:

"HE WHO LAUGHS LAST LAUGHS LOUDEST."

KEELEY

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** CENSORSHIP, THE PRESS, ELECTIONS, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 17 SEP 1976  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1976PORTL00822  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D760351-1096  
**From:** PORT LOUIS  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1976/newtext/t19760949/aaaabphz.tel  
**Line Count:** 63  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION AF  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** GolinoFR  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 25 JUN 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <25 JUN 2004 by ifshinsr>; APPROVED <28 JUN 2004 by GolinoFR>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PRESS CENSORSHIP LIFTED; PARTIES TO HAVE ACCESS TO GOVERNMENT MEDIA PRIOR TO ELECTIONS  
**TAGS:** PINT, MP  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006